–Save This Page as a PDF–

Jonah and the Violent Storm
1: 4-16

Scene one closed with **Jonah** running away from **the LORD**. **Scene two** opens by describing **ADONAI's** reaction to **Yonah's** flight, as **God hurls a storm** on the sea. The tension that brings the scene to life is introduced immediately. Will **the ship** break up and all aboard perish **(1:4)**? **Yonah's** confession of faith has been carefully placed at the midpoint of the chiastic structure. There are 94 words in the Hebrew text from the scene's beginning in **1:4** to the beginning of the speech in **1:9** (**A Hebrew I am**) and 94 words in **1:10-15**. **Verse 16**, **a reflection on what scene two as a whole says about ADONAI,** stands outside the chiastic structure. Both the chiastic makeup and the exact balance of the number of words on each side serve to place the focus for this **third scene** on the confession of **1:9**.[35]

A The LORD hurls a storm (1:4)

B Sailors pray, then act (1:5ab)

C Jonah acts (1:5c)

D Sailors question Jonah (1:6-8)

E Yonah confesses, "A Hebrew I am" (1:9)

D Sailors question Jonah (1:10-11)

C Jonah speaks (1:12)

B Sailors act, then pray (1:13-14)

A The sailors hurl Jonah (1:15-16)

The principle person in the narrative is **God**, not **Jonah**. To accomplish **His** purposes, **ADONAI** sovereignly controlled various events recorded in the book, overcame **the prophet's** rebellion, and opened the hearts of **the Ninevites**. Here **the LORD** miraculously altered the direction of **His reluctant servant's** itinerary. A life interrupted. Between **Yonah's** disobedience, **his** hardened conscience, the ferocious storm of discipline, the frightening waves and the gaze of **the sailors** staring a hole through **him**, I'm quite sure **he** never thought anything good was going to come out of this. But it did.

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, How wise and awesome **You** are! Praise **You** that you are able to take what looks bad to your children **(John 1:12, First John 3:1, 3)** and **You** turn it around to **Your** glory. **Now we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).** Praise how **You** guided all in events in Joseph's life-from being thrown in a pit, to sold as a slave by his brothers, to being put in prison when his boss lied about him, and then in **Your** perfect timing – to being promoted to second in command to Pharaoh. **Yes, you yourselves planned evil against me. God planned it for good, in order to bring about what it is this day – to preserve the lives of many people (Genesis 50:20).** We love to serve **You**, even when we don't understand why **You** ask us to do hard tasks. We trust **You** and know that **You** always want what is best and **You** are holy, righteous and wonderful. In **Yeshua's** holy name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*